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that is. Quite apart from the reasoning by which Professor Eucken reaches his conclusions, the question is pertinent whether an idealistic universe is necessarily a guarantee for the integrity of spiritual values. Idealism is, after all, merely a theory how the world must be constituted in order to be knowable. Such a theory carries with it no specific implications regarding the moral and religious character of the world; yet the author, like so many other idealistic writers, takes for granted that idealism is entrusted with a special commission as the guardian of man's spiritual interests.

It is not necessary, however, to agree with Professor Eucken's conclusions in order to appreciate the book. The lucidity and charm of style, and the depth and earnestness of conviction, combined with an erudition that never wearies, gives to the work an independent value. It exemplifies the author's contention that a message may be ennobled and made fruitful through the personality by which it is transmitted. The translation, which seems to be an excellent piece of work, will make the book accessible to many of Professors Eucken's admirers, and will doubtless secure for it a wide circle of readers.

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THE ANCESTRY OF CHAUCER. By Alfred Allen Kern, Professor of English, Millsaps College, Missouri. A dissertation submitted to the Board of University Studies of the Johns Hopkins University in conformity with the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The Lord Baltimore Press, 1906. 163 pages.

Dr. Kern's dissertation falls into six parts,—The Name Chaucer, The Chaucers, The Parentage of Chaucer, The Grandparents of Chaucer, The Parents of Chaucer, the Friends of the Chaucers. No attempt is made in the paper to settle the questions of connection between Thomas Chaucer and the poet, or the problem as to the latter's wife; these points are the subjects of separate studies now in preparation. In his first chapter, on the name Chaucer, the author adheres to the long-accepted theory deriving the word ultimately from *calcearium*, a hosier, dismissing the suggestion of *chaufecire*, chafewax, first made by Tyrwhitt, and re-announced as a new discovery in the *Athenaeum* of 1899 I:145, 210, 242, 274, 338, 436, 468. The notes on the spelling of the surname might have been amplified by a glance over Shirley's renditions of the word; he writes in the Trinity MS. *Chaucier*, in Harley 78 *Chaucier*, in Additionals 16165 *Chaucier* and *Chaucyer*, Thomas *Chaucyer* and Thomas

Chauciers, in Ashmole 59 *Chaucier*, *Chaucyer* and *Chauciers*, in his versified table of contents to the Adds. MS *Chaucier*. We may remark also, of the citation on Dr. Kern's page 11 from MS Cotton Otho A xvii (wrongly written for xviii), that the late note made upon that now ruined MS is to be found in the Urry Chaucer of 1721, fol. k 3 recto, compare fol. e 4 verso note o; if a citation of Chaucer's name from a manuscript of unknown date and scribe be desirable, reference should be made to authority more nearly contemporary than is Smyth's *Westminster Abbey*. The headings of the Minor Poems, as printed by the Chaucer Society, would yield a collection of spellings of the poet's name comparable in value with those from public documents gathered by Dr. Kern.

Under the second heading Dr. Kern has presented the interesting facts brought to light by Mr. Redstone regarding the Suffolk family named Malyn and the interchange of that name with Chaucer by the branch of the family which settled in London. In this connection it may be observed that Thomas Chaucer, presumably the poet's son, held estates in Norfolk, not far from Bury St. Edmunds and the Suffolk monastery of which Lydgate was a member; and that Lydgate, lamenting the departure of Thomas for France, alludes to a "gentil Molyns," evidently a boy, as a member of Thomas Chaucer's household. The similarity of the names Malyn and Molyns may repay an investigation more minute than that sketched by me in *Modern Philology* I:331-336, where the text of Lydgate's poem is printed; it was earlier printed by Dr. Furnivall in *Notes and Queries* for 1872 I:381-383, cp. *ibid.* pp. 436, 468, 493. The table of the Chaucer-Malyn family appended to the dissertation is also based upon Mr. Redstone's work. In it Geoffrey Chaucer appears as the only child of his parents, but since all trails should be followed, it might have been well to investigate the validity of the statement in MS Harley 1548, according to which manuscript (a Visitation of the County of Kent), one Simon Manninge de Codham of that shire, living in 46th Edward III and 5th Richard II, married "Catharina soror Galfridi Chawcer militis celeberrimi Poetae Anglicani." From this union several well-known New England families, among them the Higginsons and Prescotts and the late Senator George F. Hoar, claim descent. See the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, vol. 51, to face page 389, for the tree.

The sections of Dr. Kern's dissertation upon the parentage, the grandparents, and the parents of Chaucer, are largely a rearrangement of the material which the Chaucer Society has collected in Part IV of the Life Records, with some corrections. If anything, the puzzle as to Chaucer's ultimately straitened

circumstances is increased by the proof of his father's wealth; but the facts as Dr. Kern rearranges them are more clearly viewed than in the Life Records. The appearance of Miss Petersen's work on Philippa Roet, supposedly the wife of Geoffrey Chaucer, and of the biography of Thomas Chaucer promised by the Chaucer Society, will give us, with Dr. Kern's useful compilation, a workable body of facts regarding the poet.

Chicago.

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